



Only Newspaper Published In Torrance

Torrance Herald

Consolidated Edition of Torrance Herald & Lomita News

Two Sections 10 Pages This Issue

TWENTIETH YEAR—No. 38.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1934

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SEVEN-CENT INCREASE SHOWN IN TOTAL TORRANCE TAX RATE

Board of Supervisors Hold County Rate to \$1.20, Same As Last Year; Increase in Water and Flood Control Districts Offset By Drop In School Tax

Increase in the rate of tax set up for the county flood control district and the Metropolitan water district, which are partially offset by a reduction in the rate for the Los Angeles city school district, will bring the total tax rate for all purposes including the city of Torrance rate to \$3.91 this year, an increase of seven cents over the rate of \$3.84 paid last year.

By cutting salaries of county employees 15 per cent the board of supervisors this week succeeded in holding the county rate to last year's figure, \$1.20, at the expense of a considerable amount of dissatisfaction among those whose pay checks are affected.

Each county department has been ordered to cut its budget 15 per cent, which is estimated to amount to \$1,000,000. The amount which will make up the general reserve fund, for which no provision was set up in the tax rate. At the last moment the board reinstated the exploitation and advertising fund, amounting to \$109,000, which had been slated to go in an effort to pare expenses, but on Thursday morning when the board met for the final consideration of the budget the item was left in, due to it is said to pressure brought to bear by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and certain other interests which benefit from the distribution of the fund in advertising.

More than one-half the proceeds from the general county tax levy of \$1.20 per \$100 will still go to pay the salaries and wages of persons in county governmental service, it was pointed out today in analyzing the new levy fixed September 1.

The amount is not as great as last year, however, when 71 cents and 9 mills of every \$1.20 went for salaries as against 61 cents and 2 mills this year.

Next largest part, 49 cents and 6 mills, is for general county purposes, such as maintenance and operation of department hospitals.

The third largest item is for "exploitation and exposition," for which every taxpayer in the county will pay two cents and one mill on each \$100 of assessed valuation.

Fourth item is for interest and sinking fund requirements on bonds voted for the county farm and county general hospital, amounting to 2 cents. Fifth item is for blind aid, for which the levy is 9 mills, or nine-tenths of a cent.

Next largest item is for interest on bonds voted to build the Hall of Justice, 8 mills. The remaining item of two-tenths of a mill is for public comfort stations. They all total \$1.20.

The tax levy for the Los Angeles city school district this year will be \$1.15, a decrease of 3 cents over last year's levy of \$1.18.

Analysis of the levy reveals how it differs from the levy of the previous year. The levy for the elementary district is 35 cents as against 33 cents last year. Levy for the high school district is 36 cents this year as against 29 cents last year.

Sinclair Club Changes Name To Democrat

Gathering Endorses All Democratic Candidates; Meet Again Next Wednesday

After an enthusiastic meeting of local Democrats held yesterday evening at the Upton Sinclair headquarters, 1312 Sartori avenue, it was unanimously voted that the Sinclair Epic Club change its name to the Torrance Democratic Club.

The change in name was explained as being in the interests of party harmony in that the newly formed Torrance Democratic Club will support all nominees seeking office on the Democratic ticket. A number of local sponsors of candidates in the Democratic gubernatorial contest at the primary election were present and expressed their willingness to cooperate.

The gathering last evening unanimously voted to endorse Upton Sinclair for governor and all other regular Democratic candidates. Election of permanent officers of the new organization was continued until the next meeting on Wednesday, September 12, at 8 p. m., to be held at 1312 Sartori avenue. All Democrats in Torrance and vicinity are invited to attend.

Farm Bureau Will Discuss Syncrotax

Those Interested In Syncrotax As It Would Apply to the Rural Taxpayer Will Be Glad to Know That a Meeting Will Be Held in the Offices of the Los Angeles County Farm Bureau, 524 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, on Friday, September 7, at 7:30 p. m., at which this subject will be discussed.

Von T. Ellsworth, head of the research department of the California farm bureau federation, and a recognized authority on tax matters, will attend this meeting in order to acquaint ranchers with the details of this tax and how it would affect them.

Committee of Eleven to Handle Welfare Relief In L. A. County

Frank Y. McLaughlin, county SERA director, will be chosen to direct the coordinated relief activities in Los Angeles county, it was predicted today following adoption of an ordinance by the board of supervisors.

Meanwhile, the board of supervisors submitted the names of 22 prominent Los Angeles county citizens to the state SERA director, who is to select 11 from that list. These 11 persons will form the Citizens' Relief Committee and will select a director.

McLaughlin is known to be favorable to the recently-appointed commission on county charities, which went out of existence with adoption of the ordinance to coordinate relief work. This committee of seven is known to have asked McLaughlin if he would consider taking over the post of county superintendent of charities following the resignation of Earl E. Jensen, and their names are among the 22 submitted to the state SERA director.

It was conceded in county circles that McLaughlin would be satisfactory to the state director of public welfare, Reba Crawford Spilva, since she stoutly defended and praised his work in the county before some 30 state assemblymen and before the board of supervisors several weeks ago.

Efforts of Wilbur LeGette, who interrupted the board of supervisors' session to inform them that he represented Mrs. Spilva personally and that she desired the supervisors to name their own committee of 11, and thus dictate to the board of supervisors, were unsuccessful. LeGette withdrew in a huff.

The new ordinance does not displace Rex Thomson, new charities chief.

Three Changes In Faculty At The Torrance Elementary This Year

The new school year at the Torrance elementary school will open Tuesday, September 11, with few changes in personnel. Due to the necessity for advertising for bids a second time for the rehabilitation of the building damaged by earthquakes, the work has not been started and the school will reorganize on a half-day basis similar to the program in force during the spring semester.

There will be three changes in the faculty as follows: Mrs. Nellie M. Bradford will return from leave of absence replacing Mrs. Gee who has been assigned elsewhere. Mrs. Gretta L. Wells, formerly at Compton boulevard school, has been assigned in the place left vacant by Mabel-Ella Brown Sweet. Mrs. Sweet has requested a leave of absence. Mrs. Evelyn K. Brown, formerly at Monte Vista school, has been assigned in place of Mrs. Eunice K. Baer who has been transferred to Metropolitan high school.

School will reopen at 8:00 a. m. on Tuesday and all children should report by 8:00 o'clock when classes will begin. Children will be given assignment slips addressed to parents and notifying them of session and teacher to which each is to report on Wednesday.

All children whose fifth birthday will come on or before December 31 may enter kindergarten. All new kindergarten pupils should report to Bungalow No. 28 for enrollment.

All children whose sixth birthday will come on or before December 19 may enter the 1st grade. Those who were not in the kindergarten last year should report for enrollment, together with all children of other grades new in the district, at tables provided for that purpose in the space between bungalows No. 27 and No. 28 and directly in front of the office.

School authorities urge that all children report on the opening day of school so as to prevent changes in rooms and adjustments of classes at a later date. Also, it is pointed out that any possible request for additional teachers or the necessity for closing a room is often based upon the opening day's enrollment.

More than 35,000 weighing and measuring devices were found to be incorrect in the county last year and were either corrected or condemned, according to the annual report of the county sealer on file today with the board of supervisors.

Three hundred convictions were obtained in township and municipal courts over the county, an increase of 12 per cent over last year, the report of Manager Charles M. Fuller states. A total of \$11,853 was imposed in fines and 41 jail sentences were served by violators. Most of the inaccurate devices were found in meat markets and at gasoline filling stations. To keep a watchful eye over these measuring and weighing devices the county sealer's deputies last year visited 84,198 places of business, the report shows.

Some 35,000 false and incorrect scales and weighing and measuring devices have been destroyed since the department was established.

"Watch the indicator on the scale while your purchase is being weighed," Fuller states in conclusion. "It will have a far-reaching effect. If you buy gasoline from a visible pump, look to make sure that the glass bowl is full before the operator starts to serve you."

Machines adjusted in Torrance numbered 138, Lomita 65, Harbor City 24, Gardena 158, Redondo Beach 122, Hawthorne 125; those condemned were in Torrance eight, Lomita seven, harbor city none, Gardena 10, Redondo Beach 11 and Hawthorne 10.

Thanks to the public address system loaned and installed by Lewis Busch, those in the stands were able to hear perfectly all the numbers which included popular songs by Dot and Verde, Betty Connor in tap dancing, Ted's Hawaiian Trio, James McDougal, Scotch comedian, the Poole Ensemble, Fred Hopkins, reader; Clifford Bryce, baritone; Miss Ella Ulrich, pianist, and Howard Gillam, tenor.

Better Housing Plan Explained Tomorrow Nite

District Director Will Be In Torrance to Answer All Questions

Tomorrow night, home owners of Torrance who wish to take advantage of loan aid in improving their property, will hear the proposition explained at a meeting called by the Chamber of Commerce, to be held at the Woman's clubhouse, 1422 Engracia avenue, at 7:30 o'clock. F. W. Marlow, district director of the better housing division of the Southern California National Emergency Council, will be present to explain all details.

Money is available now under the federal act for improvements, at the low rate of 5% on the \$100. Sums ranging from \$100 to \$2000 may be borrowed on favorable terms. The release of such sums in purchase materials, payment of wages, will work a great benefit to many individuals in Torrance. Action now is desirable.

A meeting to discuss the housing improvement plan was held at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday evening with representatives of 20 building trades and material firms present.

All expressed themselves as highly confident that there is an ample field for improvement work here, and favorable to the launching of an active campaign such as is now in progress in many other cities.

Torrance HI School Opens Next Tuesday

Pupils Housed In Tents Until Reconstruction Work Is Finished

Arrangements at the Torrance high school, to take care of students in their classroom, are better than the average in the Los Angeles city school district, according to Principal Arthur G. Waldele, who has been at his desk this week putting the final touches to the program for the year.

The tents which have been erected are well set up, conveniently located and will provide ample space to accommodate the students. They are well lighted, ventilated and will be adequately heated this winter.

Students will assemble Tuesday morning to make out their programs for the semester. Contrary to the usual custom of closing first day sessions at noon, there will be a lunch period at that time and school will be dismissed at 2:30 o'clock.

The first day's activities will start with a faculty meeting from 8 to 9 o'clock when teachers will receive full instructions as to classes, home rooms and program details.

At 9 o'clock all students are requested to assemble on the athletic field for their instructions. After this session they will go to assigned to their proper classes and rooms.

New students will go to the gymnasium after the assembly to register and make out their programs. Most of the students of last year have already completed their programs and will go at once to their classes. Two new teachers have been assigned to duty at the high school. Mrs. Lois Engel, who is taking a leave of absence, will be replaced by Irene Frances Stail, who will teach public speaking, English and dramatics. Josephine Boecker, half time teacher, will have charge of the seventh grade art instruction.

LACK OF BOND BUYERS HALTS PURCHASE OF WATER SYSTEM

Sinclair Nomination Blamed For Demoralization of Bond Market; City Signs Contract For Purchase of Water Company

Torrance city councilmen found themselves Tuesday night in somewhat the same embarrassing position of a person who goes into a store, buys something, and then looks into his purse and discovers that he hasn't any money to pay for the purchase. Tuesday afternoon, city officials affixed their signatures to the contract agreeing to purchase the property of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company for \$137,000, expecting to use the funds derived from the sale of \$200,000 in water bonds with which to pay for their purchase.

But when the hour arrived Tuesday evening for opening bids from bond buyers, much to the surprise of members of the city council there were no bids received.

However, representatives from the council chamber to make examinations in the first place, the bond buyers said the 5 per cent interest rate set by the city was too low. Secondly, they reported that the bottom had dropped out of the municipal bond market since Upton Sinclair had been nominated as governor of California, and that conditions in the bond business had become so demoralized that they couldn't take the chance of investing their money to the extent of \$200,000 even at six per cent. They also stated that the "national picture" was unsettled due to the necessity of the federal government's big refunding program and that this was having a demoralizing effect on other types of bonds.

Want Option. But the gentlemen from the bond houses in Los Angeles did have one offer to make. They would buy \$25,000 or \$50,000 of the Torrance water bonds at six per cent interest, "as an evidence of good faith," providing the city would give them an option on the balance of the issue at the same interest rate. They expressed the opinion that the balance of the \$200,000 could be marketed "within a week or two days, but were not confident enough in their ability to find buyers to put up their own money to buy the entire issue.

Councilmen debated the issue, and reasoned that if the balance of the \$200,000 was not sold, the city could not carry out its plan to buy the water company system and at the same time would have to pay interest on the \$25,000 or \$50,000 in bonds that the bond houses had purchased to "show their good faith." In selling the bonds under such a plan, all hope of receiving a bonus over the \$100 per value would be sacrificed, and some of the council were of the opinion that the city should set a bonus on its bonds. If the interest rate was set at six per cent, so the whole matter was laid over for another week until the council meets at its regular meeting, September 11.

Water Co. Deal. The contract for the purchase of the water company stipulates a price of \$137,000 for the tangible assets of the present distributing system excepting accounts receivable and cash on hand. The water company agrees to deliver its system free and clear of all incumbrances, excepting the 1934-35 taxes, which are assumed by the city. The time limit for payment of the \$137,000 was given as October 24, which is subject to an extension to November 24 in the event the city has trouble in marketing its bonds by October 24. In the event the city cannot make its payment by November 24, under the terms of the contract, the deal is called off and the city agrees to reimburse the water company for any expense it may have incurred in attempting to close the deal. However, city officials intimated at the Tuesday evening meeting that further extensions could be secured in the event the money was not available by November 24.

A number of paragraphs in the contract are devoted to the method of servicing the Los Angeles Shoestring Strip. The city is to continue to serve consumers in the Shoestring Strip, but it does not acquire any of the pipe lines in this area. Profits from the sale of water in the Shoestring Strip are to go to the water company, after deducting 10 per cent of the gross receipts for administrative expense.

In order to assist the water company in collecting bills for the final month of its operation, the city agreed to permit the water company staff to operate the system for the first month following the transfer of the system to the city, and the water company is

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Playgrounds To Be Open Daily

Plans Formed For Adult Recreation As Well As For Juveniles

According to Miss Josephine Odell, in charge of recreation work in Torrance, the playgrounds will be open as usual after school starts and also two or three evenings a week.

In addition to the juvenile work, plans are under way to organize adult recreation, with card games, old-time dances, and similar pursuits of interest to grown-ups.

Mothers are asked to co-operate with the workers by sending their children to the playgrounds during their free hours, as adult supervisors are in charge and there will be plenty of entertainment for the youngsters.

More than 160 children are now interested in the handicraft work which is done at the recreation center building on Cabrillo avenue. Lessons in tap dancing, piano and other cultural instruction are given. Companies are formed to be instructed in setting-up exercises, and drill formations, not to make the children conscious of the importance of cleanliness and body care together with instilling the idea of co-operation.

Many children use the playground equipment daily at the park and other centers but there is still room for more and all are urged to take advantage of the opportunity for supervised play.

HOME FROM VISIT. Miss Katherine McNeil, 1744 Andro, returned home yesterday from San Francisco, where she visited Mrs. Violet Lanz and son, Jimmy. Several days were spent at the Collins Dude ranch.

Inspectors Find Many Incorrect Weight Devices

Convictions for False Measurements Increase 12 Percent This Year

More than 35,000 weighing and measuring devices were found to be incorrect in the county last year and were either corrected or condemned, according to the annual report of the county sealer on file today with the board of supervisors.

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Old Age Pension Laws In Effect In 28 States, Two Territories

Agitation for the adoption of a federal old age security, or pension, law, which will undoubtedly come up for serious consideration at the next session of Congress, brings to light that at the present time no less than 28 states and two territories of the United States have already adopted such laws.

Provisions as to age, length of residence, and property ownership vary. The average pension as provided amounts to \$30 a month, some as low as \$15 a month, with the Territory of Alaska making the most generous provision for its dependents, \$35 a month for men, \$45 for women. However, in order to be eligible for pension in Alaska, the applicant must be able to show that he or she has resided there since 1906.

The list of states and territories now providing pensions for the aged are: Alaska—Minimum age, 65; required residence, since 1906; no other support; pension, \$35 a month for men, \$45 for women. Arizona—70 years; required residence, 35 years; not more than \$300 a year income; pension, \$30 a month.

California—70 years, 15 years in state and one in county; not over \$3000 assets; pension \$1 a day. Colorado—65 years; 15 years citizenship, 15 years residence in state and five in county; not over \$2000 assets; pension, \$1 a day. Delaware—65 years; 15 years citizenship, five years in state; pension, \$25 a month.

Hawaii—65 years; 30 years citizenship, 15 years in territory; not over \$300 a year income; pension, \$15 a month. Idaho—65 years; 15 years citizenship; 10 years in state and three in county; not over \$300 a year income; pension, \$25 a month. Indiana—70 years; 15 years citizenship, 15 years in county; assets not over \$1000; pension, \$180 a year.

Iowa—65 years; 15 years citizenship, 10 in state and 2 in county; not over \$100 a year income; pension, \$25 a month. Kentucky—70 years; 15 years citizenship, 10 in state and 10 in county; income not over \$400 a year or assets over \$2500; pension, \$250 a year.

Maine—65 years; 15 years in state, one in county; not over \$800; pension, \$1 a day. Maryland—65 years; 15 years citizenship, 10 in state, 10 in county; pension, \$1 a day. Massachusetts—70 years; 20 years in state; discretionary pension. Michigan—70 years; 15 years citizenship, 10 in state; not over \$3500 assets; pension, \$30 a month. Minnesota—70 years; 15 years citizenship, 15 in state, 15 in county; not over \$3000 assets; pension, \$1 a day.

Montana—70 years; citizenship 15 years, 15 in state; \$300 annual income; pension, \$25 a month. Nebraska—65 years; 15 years citizenship, 15 in state; \$300 annual income; pension, \$20 a month. Nevada—65; 15 years citizenship, 15 in state; maximum assets, \$3000; pension, \$1 a day. New Hampshire—70; 15 years

COMPARISON OF TAX RATES		
	1933	1934
*City of Torrance	\$.96	\$.96
L. A. City School District	1.18	1.15
County Library	.06	.06
Flood Control	.15	.19
Sanitation District No. 5	.25	.25
Metropolitan Water District	.04	.10
General County Tax	1.20	1.20
Totals	\$3.84	\$3.91

*In annexed territory the rate is \$.90, making that total \$3.85, or an increase of one cent over last year. Land values within the newly created Torrance water district will be subject to an additional 33c rate to cover six months' interest on the \$200,000 water bonds recently authorized.